



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **107th** CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2002

Senate

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTABILITIES RESTAURANT AND THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Wilmington's Pastabilities for its outstanding commitment to community service. The National Restaurant Association has recognized the restaurant as a finalist in their Restaurant Neighbor Award. The national distinction rewards restaurants for outstanding philanthropic work.

In his State of the Union address earlier this year, President Bush unveiled the USA Freedom Corps, challenging every American to commit at least 2 years of their life to serving their community and their country. Pastabilities, in Wilmington, Delaware has exceeded the President's call to action. Owner Luigi Vitrone recognizes the importance of neighborhood revitalization and preservation. He and his staff have spent years dedicating energy and resources to improving their community. The results have been outstanding.

Founder of the Little Italy Neighborhood Restaurant Association, LINA, Mr. Vitrone spearheaded the effort to save Wilmington's "Little Italy" from an economic downturn. Having lived and worked in the neighborhood for over a decade, the personal investment ran deep.

Established in 1997, LINA has raised \$4.8 million from public, state and private sources to help rejuvenate the neighborhood.

The money raised has been used to add new light posts, brick sidewalks, banners, and flowerpots and to make important structural changes that make the neighborhood more handicapped accessible. Luigi Vitrone has successfully restored Delaware's "Little Italy" to the beautiful, unique, authentic community it once was.

Volunteer service is vital to the improvement of our community, and the Pastabilities family has lent their time and energy at every turn. Local businesses such as this one serve as role models for citizen action and make Delaware shine. I am proud to put a spotlight on one of the State's premier businesses.

I commend Pastabilities for their fantastic culinary work and thank Luigi Vitrone for his leadership and commitment to strengthening the community. This most recent honor bestowed upon the restaurant mirrors the pride felt by the neighborhood.